REMARKS

This amendment presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on March 6, 2009. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks in the above-referenced application to advance the prosecution of the instant application. Applicant respectfully cancels claims 1-9, 11-13 and 15-16 without prejudice in order to narrow the issues for review. Reconsideration of the Final rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections standing against pending claims 17-31 and 38-42, 44-59.

The final action cites Yang, et al. (Interoperation Support for Electronic Business), 2/2000, Communications of the ACM, vol. 6, Pages 1-9 [sic], which relates generally to interoperability supported by business process compatibility, adaptability, leveraging legacy assets, support for business transactions and network security, and to this end provides no relevant specific teachings and is no more relevant than Stewart, et al. Stewart, et al. concerns customer access repository components/ plug-ins which may be available for customers to change or add functionality with reference to a protocol plug-in for necessary support, including such things as conversation names, DTDs, business identifiers, and so on, i.e., for customers to change/ access/ filter/ add functionality. Likewise, Yang, et al. merely concerns message types which share some commonality for attending to communications, e.g. headers, exceptions, timeouts etc. Yang, et al. neither discloses nor teaches network execution for administering entities in transactions. Yang, et al. discloses a method of supporting business partners' network communications for exchanging information in a business transaction, but does not show active participation in actual trading and its teachings are no more relevant than Stewart, et al., both of which completely fail to disclose or teach a network domain gateway in communication with a network execution component operable to administer a transaction.

Applicants' supply chain management system governs transactions and facilitates network execution. As claimed, Applicants' network domain gateway is in communication with its network execution component, facilitating communication with a

partner coordinator component integrated with an existing system of the partner to provide real-time data relevant to the transaction from the existing system of the partner to the network execution component. Applicants' transport component facilitates active processing between the enterprise and the at least one partner as recited. This is distinct from the customer access functionalities, etc. provided by the prior art.

Applicants' independent claim 41, for example, recites its network execution component and transport component for active processing between the enterprise and the at least one partner, which goes well beyond the teaching of Yang, et al. or Stewart, et al. concerning e.g. customer access repository components for message types which share common behavior where message objects are payloads such as headers, etc.

Regarding Applicants' claims 41-42, 44-50, the action asserts that Stewart et al. [Paragraph 0341] discloses a network execution component operable to administer a transaction involving an enterprise and at least one partner in the supply chain. To the contrary, Stewart merely recites as follows:

[0341] The Message Type System is a polymorphic hierarchy of message types. A message type is an abstraction of information that will be shared by transactors (e.g. ORDER, CUSTOMER, PRODUCT etc.). <u>All message types share some common behavior, such as how the encapsulated information (XML) can be manipulated</u>. Therefore the type system implements basic manipulation capabilities (create, read, update, delete) on the base level. Communication Adapter is a notion that abstracts a wire-protocol, such as HTTP, SOAP etc. When a transactor wants to communicate with somebody over a network connection, it needs to instantiate an appropriate adapter object and then pass it's reference to the message object. <u>The content of the message object then becomes a payload of the network message and the adapter takes care of the communication protocol (headers, exceptions, timeouts etc.)</u>. **(Stewart, Emphasis added; concerns message types that share common behavior, generally where message object content becomes a payload of the network message with the adapter taking care of the communication protocol, e.g. headers, exceptions, timeouts etc., NOT network execution for administering entities in transactions involving an enterprise and at least one partner in the supply chain).**

The prior art completely fails to disclose or teach a network domain gateway <u>in communication with Applicants' network execution component as claimed to administer a transaction</u> involving an enterprise and at least one partner in the supply chain for communication with a partner coordinator component integrated with an existing system of the partner to provide real-time data relevant to the transaction from the existing system of the partner to the network execution component, e.g. as recited in Applicants' claims 41, et seq. Applicants' transport component facilitates active processing between the enterprise and the at least one partner, as claimed, which goes well beyond the teaching of Stewart concerning customer access repository components for message types which share common behavior, e.g. where message objects are payloads such as headers, exceptions, timeouts etc. Applicants' transport component facilitates active processing with network execution for administering entities in transactions. Applicants' network domain gateway structure relates to a network domain gateway in communication with Applicants' network execution component operable to administer a transaction involving an enterprise and at least one partner in the supply chain for communication with a partner coordinator component integrated with an existing system of the partner to provide real-time data relevant to the transaction from the existing system of the partner to the network execution component, as disclosed at **FIG.** 12 and elsewhere throughout Applicants' specification illustrating implementations of its network domain gateway according to the described embodiments.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application is, accordingly, respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, Applicants request consideration of and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims 17-31 and 38-42, 44-59.

Respectfully submitted,

/perry hoffman/
Perry Hoffman
Registration No. 37,150
PERRY HOFFMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
P.O. BOX 1649
DEERFIELD, IL 60015
(847) 809-4285; (847) 607-0580 (FAX)